

CLAIMS

1. A product identification band, wrapping member or label which serve to encircle, partially encircle or wraps around a dish format container and/or to identify the contents thereof said label comprises a backing layer carrying a release material on one face and a label layer carrying an adhesive on one face to secure the label to the product packaging in due course, said face being adhered to the backing layer and being separable therefrom for application to a package or product in due course characterised in that said label is formed with at least one region of discontinuity in the label layer.
2. A label according to claim 1 characterised in that said region of discontinuity is in the form of a cut, slot, perforations or the like which penetrate the label layer.
3. A label according to claim 2 characterised in that the region of discontinuity is in the form of a single shaped cut or slot.
4. A label according to claim 2 characterised in that said region of discontinuity is in the form of at least two converging cuts or slots.
5. A label according to claim 3 or claim 4 characterised in that the region of label located between the cuts forms a flap member movable separately to the label.

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6. A label according to claim 5 characterised in that said flap member is provided with a fold, scored or creased region which serves to impart a "hinge-like" action assisting movement of the flap member.

7. A label according to claim 2 characterised in that said cuts are interrupted by portions of label material which act to connect the flap member to said label.

8. A pressure relief valve for a packaging container in the form of a product identification band, wrapping member or label which serve to encircle, partially encircle or wraps around a dish format container and/or to identify the contents thereof said label comprises a backing layer carrying a release material on one face and a label layer carrying an adhesive on one face to secure the label to the product packaging in due course, said face being adhered to the backing layer and being separable therefrom for application to a package or product in due course characterised in that said label is formed with at least one region of discontinuity in the label layer.

9. A pressure relief valve according to claim 8 characterised in that said region of discontinuity is in the form of a cut, slot, perforations or the like which penetrate the label layer.

10. A pressure relief valve according to claim 9 characterised in that the region of discontinuity is in the form of a single shaped cut or slot.

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11. A pressure relief valve according to claim 9 characterised in that said region of discontinuity is in the form of at least two converging cuts or slots.

5 12. A pressure relief valve according to claim 10 or claim 11 characterised in that the region of label located between the cuts forms a valve member movable separately to the label.

10 13. A label according to claim 12 characterised in that said valve member is provided with a fold, scored or creased region which serves to impart a "hinge-like" action assisting movement of the valve member.

15 14. A pressure relief valve according to claim 9 characterised in that said cuts are interrupted by portions of label material which act to connect the valve member to said label.

20 15. A pressure relief valve according to any of the preceding claims in combination with sealant means for said container.

25 16. An adhesive self-venting label for application to product packaging.

30 17. A method of facilitating the safe removal of steam wherein during the packaging of a food product or so-called "ready meal" contained in a dish-format container comprising the step of placing a sealant film over the container, the step of making a small aperture in the sealant film and the further step of applying a product identification wrapping or label having a flap formed therein such that the flap is located over the aperture
35 such that pressure created within the container when the

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ready meal is heated vents through the flap which acts as a valve.

18. A packaged product wherein said packaging
5 comprises a dish-like container to retain the product covered or sealed with a suitable sealant means such as a sealant film, wrap or lid characterised in that an aperture is formed in the sealant means and a label or product
10 identification band having a flap, vent or valve means formed therein is applied to the sealant means such that the flap or vent is located over the aperture formed in the sealant means.

15 19. A method of facilitating the safe removal of steam wherein during the packaging of a food product or so-called "ready meal" contained in a dish-format container. Said method comprising the step of placing a sealant film over the container, the step of making a small aperture in
20 the sealant film and the further step of applying a product identification wrapping or label having a flap formed therein such that the flap is located over the aperture such that pressure created within the container when the ready meal is heated vents through the flap which acts as
25 a valve.